

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-26 were previously pending in the application. Claims 6, 9 and 20 are cancelled leaving claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-19 and 21-26 for consideration.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that independent claims 1, 10 and 15 and dependent claims 24-26 are allowed and that claims 3, 7, 12, 17, 21 and 23 are allowable.

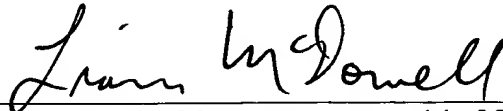
Based on a telephone call with the Examiner on January 10, 2005, dependent claims 2, 6, 11, 16 and 21 are amended to remove the phrases "non-deformable" and "rigid" to render the issue of new matter moot. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph is believed addressed and these claims should also be allowable based on their dependence from an allowed independent claim.

Since the claims remaining in the application are indicated as allowable or depend from an allowable claim and since all formal matters are believed addressed, the application is believed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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